

Serial Number 09/580,968

**REMARKS**

The above-amendments correct the formatting of the amendments to claims 16 and 17, originally presented in the Response submitted on December 22, 2003. The strikeouts included in the December 22 Response have been replaced by brackets, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.173 and MPEP 1453. An explanation of, and support for, the amendments is set forth in the December 22 Response.

For the reasons stated in the December 22 Response, withdrawal of any remaining objections and rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA  
Registration No. 33,805

Date: January 29, 2004

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

NWB\S\Producer\New\Pending Q...ZYIYANG\80968\05.wpd